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16 January, 1958

Dear Mr. Dulles;

According to press rumors and to a friend of mine on Newsweek magazine (which always seems so oracular!) you are thinking seriously of retiring in April. While nothing I will say could dissuade you if your mind is made up, still, I feel that your loss to our government at this time would be most serious. No man is indispensable, but the long years of experience and training for and in the job you have makes you pretty close to that. I hope the rumors are true, that you have changed your mind and will stick around.

For a long time, I had hoped that we might one day work together. That didn't come about but it has never lessened the feeling I have long held that you have done an expert and little-appreciated job of building solidly in some pretty high political winds. Back in 1945 I wrote a series of monograms on why we ought to have a central agency. I expect you did the same. I feel that you ought to stay long enough to insure that somebody doesn't start a demolition job on one excuse or another.

I'd take this up with my congressman but I think an appeal to Mr. Dulles might bring better results ! In short, stay in there, you never looked better !

Warmest Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive ink, appearing to read "Ted".